



UPLAND UNIFIED

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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AUGUST SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dear Upland Unified School District Community,

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year! There is always a special energy across our District at the start of a new year, and it has been wonderful to see our campuses once again filled with students, staff, and families. I hope everyone is settling in and looking forward to the opportunities ahead.

August began with an exciting milestone as we officially opened Pathways Prep Academy, our District's newest school. Pathways Prep welcomed its inaugural class with a celebration filled with music, dancing, colorful confetti, and plenty of school spirit. As the first early college high school in the West End region of San Bernardino County, Pathways Prep expands opportunities for students to earn college credits while pursuing their high school diplomas. I am excited to watch this new school community grow and establish traditions of its own.

We welcomed our employees back at the annual Gathering of Excellence on August 20, an all-staff professional development day that gave us an opportunity to reconnect, celebrate years of dedicated service, and prepare for the year ahead. Seeing our team together was a wonderful reminder of the talent, dedication, and care our employees bring to our schools each day.

Of course, one of the best moments of the month was welcoming students back for the first day of school on August 24. Across Upland Unified, students arrived to cheers, high fives, and smiling staff members ready to begin another year of learning and growth. Thank you to everyone who worked diligently over the summer to ensure our campuses were ready to welcome students back.

As many of you know, I recently announced that I will be retiring as Superintendent of Upland Unified near the end of this calendar year. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my career to serve this extraordinary community, and I am deeply grateful for the relationships, memories, and accomplishments we have shared. I am pleased to welcome Dr. Shinay Bowman, our District's current Chief Academic Officer, as Upland Unified's next superintendent. Dr. Bowman knows our District and community well, and I have tremendous confidence in her leadership as Upland Unified begins its next chapter.

As we embark on the 2026-27 school year, I am especially grateful for the opportunity to share in another exciting beginning with our students, staff, and families. Thank you for your continued partnership and all you do to make Upland Unified such a special community. I look forward to a wonderful year ahead as we continue Creating Excellence for All.

In gratitude,

Lynn J. Carmen Day, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Upland Unified School District





Upland Unified Welcomes Students Back for 2026-27 School Year Focused on Academic Achievements

Approximately 9,397 Upland Unified students returned to classrooms on August 24, kicking off the 2026-27 school year with cheers, high fives, and messages of encouragement as teachers, administrators, and staff welcomed students back to campuses across the District.

From students arriving for their first day of transitional kindergarten to seniors beginning their final year at Upland High School, the first day marked a fresh start for the Upland Unified community and the beginning of another year focused on academic achievement, student well-being, and creating opportunities for every student to thrive.

Preparations for the new school year began well before students returned to campuses. Throughout the summer, the District's Maintenance and Operations, Custodial, and Grounds teams worked diligently across the District's 16 campuses to prepare classrooms and school grounds, service facilities, and ensure schools were ready to welcome students and staff.

The 2026-27 school year brings several new leaders to Upland Unified. Sycamore Elementary School welcomed new Principal Shawndra Trent, who joins the District after previously serving as a principal in Glendora Unified School District.

At the District level, Upland Unified welcomed Chief Business Officer Rami Beshara, who joins the District from Centralia Elementary School District, and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Charles Neighbours, who previously served as principal of Grand Terrace High School in the Colton Joint Unified School District.

The new school year comes on the heels of a year filled with accomplishments for Upland Unified, including Upland High School being named a 2026 California Distinguished School, continued expansion of career technical education opportunities, and the launch of Pathways Prep Academy, the District's new early college high school.





Superintendent Dr. Lynn Carmen Day speaks to Upland Unified team members at the Gathering of Excellence on August 20, an all-staff professional development day that celebrated employee service, renewed connections, and prepared staff for the 2026-27 school year.



The Upland High School girls varsity tennis team served up a strong start to the season on August 19, earning a decisive 12-4 victory over the Serrano Diamondbacks. The impressive opening win set the tone for an exciting season ahead as the Highlanders look to build on their early momentum.